

Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
WEEKLY NEWS
December 29, 2009

Sunday, January 3, 2010

9:30 Service. *Things Commonly Believed Among Us*

Eric Banner*

Unitarian Universalists often think of ourselves as a small and powerless bunch surrounded by an overwhelming sea of conservatism. At the time of Kansas settlement Unitarianism and Universalism were at a high point of expansion in our region. What does it mean that we Kansas UU's are both part of a deeper history, and yet largely unaware of our connection to the churches that changed our religious history over a hundred years ago?

**(Eric Banner is a Unitarian Universalist seminarian at Starr King School for Ministry in Berkeley, California, and is a member of the Manhattan KS Fellowship.)*

11:00 Program. *The Supreme Court; An 'Interactive talk'*

Joe Pierron, a judge on the Kansas Court of Appeals will give an 'interactive talk' in which he presents legal cases which have come before the U. S. Supreme Court, asks the audience how they would vote, then reveals the actual Supreme Court decisions

Wednesday Night

Wednesday Night Dinner and Program Volunteers wish you Happy Holidays and want to remind you there is **no Wednesday night dinner this week**, December 30. Please join us Wednesday night January 13, 2010 for dinner, events, and classes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

LINK

Please Please Please sign up for LINK. Our next LINK service date is **January 9, 2010**. Sign-up sheets are on the counter at the Fellowship; we need meat and vegetarian casseroles to serve about 14 and many hands to help serve and clean up. Our LINK Coordinator, Ellen Sward, will be out of town on that date; *we are grateful that Susan Harper has agreed to do the coordinating*; ensuring that we have enough food and help, and making sure things run smoothly at the LINK facility. **We need casseroles; we need workers, especially strong younger men to help with dishwashing.** If you are willing and able, please get in touch with Susan Harper.

There will be no Equal Exchange sales on Sunday, January 3, since Bob and I will be out of town. Please do not take product on your own, because it will greatly mess up my inventory records! I apologize for the inconvenience. Thank you for all of your support, --*Susan Harper*

Cornelia Fields -Memorial service will be on Sat., Jan. 23, at 11 a.m., at the UFL

Cornelia Vandervelde Fields passed away Wed., Dec. 23. She'd been married to Eldon Fields, long-time licentiate of the UFL. (Eldon passed away in 2003.) Survivors include two children: Carol Fields

of Mission, KS, and Jim Fields of Silver Spring, MD; and two grandchildren. The family suggests memorials to the UFL or to the League of Women Voters Educational Fund.

Snow

A White Christmas, including impassible snowdrifts, caused cancellation of the Candlelight Service and Sunday morning Services. .

Minister's Discretionary Fund

Having become aware of financial needs for which no community resource existed, the Pastoral Care Task Force and Community Care Team explored the possibility of creating a fund for such needs. Rev. Jill Jarvis researched other UU congregations' methods of collecting, distributing, and reporting ministers' discretionary funds. The board approved our proposal to designate *a special collection at every Christmas Eve service* exclusively for this fund, so that we do not compete with budgeted expenses and Community Connection requests. Members may also make tax-deductible contributions to the fund at any time. Within certain guidelines, the minister will have sole discretion for disbursing the funds and will maintain strict confidentiality concerning recipients. We believe that establishing this fund is an expression of our commitment to creating and sustaining a caring community.

End-of-Year Operating Fund Appeal

Just a reminder that as the year ends, pledge payments made before December 31 will assist with the Fellowship's budget and cash flow during the winter months and will assist you with deductions if you itemize your taxes. If your budget permits, an extra contribution this month will be enormously helpful and gratefully appreciated. Please write "operations pledge" or "operations donation" on the memo line. Checks may also be mailed to Treasurer, Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence, 1263 N. 1100 Rd, Lawrence KS 66047. Many thanks!!

The UUSC Guest-At-Your-Table boxes

If you haven't returned the UUSC boxes yet, or simply a check, it's not too late! They can be collected until January 10, when we will send in the final tally of contributions. We continue to support the important work of the UUSC. The UUSC is our Community Connection for the month of Dec.

Inclement Weather Policy Notice

In case of inclement weather on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, please check the Fellowship Web site (<http://www.uufl.net>) for cancellation notice or call the Fellowship at 842-3339, where the answering machine message will indicate whether Fellowship events have been canceled. In the event of cancellation, notices or phone messages will be posted at least an hour prior to the event. For other committee meetings or small-group activities, please contact the chair or host of the event.

Suggest a Class for Wednesday Nights this Spring!

Have you read a book about which you are enthusiastic? Do you want to share a creative skill such as cooking, writing, or photography? Are you a storyteller? A magician? A peacekeeper? Is there a spiritual practice that you find meaningful? Let us know your ideas for classes for our Wednesday night programs at the fellowship.

Willing to facilitate but don't know what topic? Check out the UUA's website for the Tapestry of Faith curricula. There you'll find fully developed programs on various topics that you can download, use, and modify as needed.

Link: <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/index.shtml>

Contact Rebecca Gant (rkgant@hotmail.com) or Michelle Iwig-Harmon (miwigharmon@sunflower.com) with your ideas. Thanks!

Classes/groups already being planned: Watch for sign-up sheets for these groups and hopefully more in the coming weeks!

First Wednesday Book Group: Ted Wilson will continue a once a month book group on Feb. 3 titled “What If? Works of Alternate History.”

Fourth Wednesday Book Group: Note this class is changing from the third Wed. to the fourth Wed. Susan Rickman will continue to facilitate a once a month book group beginning Jan. 27, centered on Huston Smith’s, The Illustrated World’s Religions: A Guide to Our Wisdom Traditions.

We are considering options for another class led by **Jill Jarvis**, so be on the lookout for a short survey to help us determine which option will be interesting to the most people.

The Bible Is a City: A Personal View, by John Brewer will be a four week class meeting Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 17, and 24. Like any ancient, large city, the Bible has interesting neighborhoods, some good and some bad. As our tour guides and body guards, we’ll use Isaac Asimov’s *Guide to the Bible* and the introductory chapters of the *Interpreter’s Bible*. Discussion encouraged. No book purchase required or suggested.

Rebecca Gant will facilitate a two-session discussion of the book: **Sex and Sensibility: The Thinking Parent’s Guide to Talking Sense About Sex.** Do you find yourself a little uncomfortable when the topic of S-E-X comes up around your children? Would you like to have more meaningful conversations with your kids to pass along your values in our sex-saturated society? Written by a long-time sexuality educator, the book is divided into two sections: a section titled “New Ways of Thinking and Talking,” and the second, titled “Raising Sexually Healthy Children.” It is full of research-based and anecdotal information about sexuality, and encouragement for parents as they have those difficult but crucial conversations. Exact dates to be determined.

Youth: The youth will meet weekly from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Emerson Room except on Board Meeting nights, when they’ll be preparing the meal and then joining in the Movies and Barn Dances.

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Art This Month in Founders’ Hall

We are pleased to feature the work of Lawrence artist, Karen Wiley. If any word describes Karen’s art it would be EXPLORATION! Most of Karen’s focus is on texture and color, her work is mainly abstract or geometric. Since she rarely starts with a specific idea or design, she has learned to have patience, searching for the textural effects that please her and discovering along the way that each layer of texture usually adds something positive to the final layer she has been looking for. Please be sure to check out this new display in Founder’s Hall.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS --- From the Social Action Committee

Community Connection. Our January collection is for the Second Chance, or Peggy Bowman Fund. *The fund assists women who need access to a full range of reproductive health care, including abortions.* The Fellowship has contributed to the Second Chance Fund for the past six or eight years.

As with our past practice, Fellowship members may contribute by making checks out to the *Fellowship, with Second Chance on the memo line.*

Roe v. Wade Celebration Thursday, January 21. Mark your calendar and plan now to join the Roe v. Wade celebration in Topeka. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. The meeting will open with an ecumenical service and speakers from the religious community. The Dillon House, two blocks from the Capital building, has been reserved for lunch with legislators. Individual meetings with legislators will take place both before and after lunch. Jill is working with Rev. Lisa Schwartz in Topeka to promote participation from our UU SCORE congregations. *Watch for more details.*

Peace Vigil Every Saturday Noon to 1 p.m. at the corner of 9th and Mass., even through the wintry Saturdays of January and February.

REMINDERS

Time Change. Responding to members' almost-unanimous desire to move our starting times, the board agreed that as of *January 3, 2010*, our services will begin at *9:30 am* and end at *10:30 am*, and our programs will start at *11 am* and finish at *noon*. We will make every effort to accommodate those who need rides and wish to leave immediately after the program. If you need a ride, contact the Care Team, uflcareteam@sunflower.com.

Community Care Team:

The UFL Community Care Team is available to assist members and friends of the Fellowship. The Care Team's role is to learn from the involved individual or family how we can be of assistance and provide the requested assistance within the limits of our resources. Care Team Coordinators are Beth Chao and Donna Swall. Contact the Care Team at uflcareteam@sunflower.com or call Rev. Jill Jarvis, 816-853-6530. See details at http://www.uufl.net/comm_care_team.html

Office Hours for Rev Jill Jarvis: Beginning again on January 6, Rev Jill Jarvis will hold office hours on Wednesdays from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m., by appointment.

Deadlines: Announcements – Thursday Evening at 5:00 p.m. *Send items to* uflooffice@sunflower.com

Newsletter articles-- Monday at noon. *Send items to* ufl_newsletter@yahoo.com

Fellowship Dates to Keep in Mind

Jan 3 Sunday morning time changes: service starts at 9:30 a.m. and the program at 11:00 a.m.

Jan 9 Saturday, LINK

The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
A Welcoming Congregation

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